

Oct. 28 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

Statement on the Death of Representative Walter H. Capps *October 28, 1997*

Hillary and I were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the death of Representative Walter Capps. He was a rare soul, someone able to fuse intense spirituality with a devotion to his community and country. He brought constant values, a rare perspective, and a sense of

moral grounding that public life too often lacks, and will sorely miss. I will always be grateful for his friendship and support. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Lois, his children Lisa, Todd, and Laura, who has worked with us at the White House, and their entire family.

Remarks at the Welcoming Ceremony for President Jiang Zemin of China *October 29, 1997*

President Jiang, Mrs. Wang, members of the Chinese delegation, welcome to the White House, and welcome to America. Mr. President, your visit gives us both an opportunity and a responsibility. At the dawn of a new century and a new millennium, let us strengthen the bonds between us; let us pursue common causes; let us address our differences openly and with respect; let us build a better world for our children.

We admire the progress China has made in such a short time. Your reforms have lifted millions from poverty, offering better housing and better schools. The Chinese people enjoy today a better standard of living than at any time in China's history. China is playing a stronger role in the community of nations, from promoting peace in Korea and Cambodia to fighting international crime and drug trafficking. Hundreds of international organizations now benefit from Chinese participation, and we welcome tens of thousands of Chinese students to the United States every year. They come to learn, but they also teach us a lot and they teach a lot, especially, to our young people with whom they will shape the future.

Mr. President, our challenge is to build on this progress for the benefit of China, the United States, and the world. For even as we admire the Great Wall of China, we must work to ensure that fewer and fewer barriers separate us.

Both our countries can best advance our interests and our values by working together rather than standing apart. For together we can lay the groundwork for a safer, better world,

where peace prevails and prosperity grows; where we join to fight the threats that none of us can conquer alone; where all our children enjoy clean air, clean water, and a healthy future; and where people are treated with dignity, free to express their beliefs and observe their faiths.

Mr. President, Chinese immigrants who came here in the 19th century called America the "Golden Mountain." They made their dream a reality when they helped to build San Francisco into a thriving cosmopolitan city on a hill. Since then our people have climbed many mountains together. When you laid a wreath at Pearl Harbor, you paid tribute to the alliance between our people that brought victory in World War II. Now, on the verge of a new century, our two great nations must join our strength again.

As we cast our eyes over the horizon and toward the future, one thing is absolutely clear: China, with its ancient civilization and renewed economic and political vigor, will have a profound influence on the new world of the 21st century. How China defines its greatness will shape the future for all the world's children.

Mr. President, together, we can make this new era the brightest chapter in China's long and rich history, the best days America has ever known, and a new age of unprecedented peace and prosperity for all the world. That, Mr. President, is the future we hope for as we welcome you to the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:18 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Jiang was accorded a formal welcome with full

military honors. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang's wife, Madame Wang Yeping. The transcript made available by the Office of the

Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Jiang.

The President's News Conference with President Jiang Zemin of China *October 29, 1997*

President Clinton. Mr. President, let me again say how pleased we are to welcome the leader of a great people with a remarkable civilization, history, and culture, a people now with its focus on the future. Your visit gives us the opportunity and the responsibility to build a future that is more secure, more peaceful, more prosperous for both our people.

To that end, I am pleased that we have agreed to regular summit meetings. I look forward to visiting China next year. We also have agreed to high-level dialogs between our Cabinet officials on the full range of security matters, and we will connect a Presidential hotline to make it easier for us to confer at a moment's notice.

China and the United States share a profound interest in a stable, prosperous, open Asia. We've worked well together in convincing North Korea to end its dangerous nuclear program. Today President Jiang and I agreed we will urge Pyongyang to take part in four-party peace talks with South Korea.

We also agreed to strengthen contacts between our militaries, including through a maritime agreement, to decrease the chances of miscalculation and increase America's ties to a new generation of China's military leaders.

A key to Asia's stability is a peaceful and prosperous relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. I reiterated America's longstanding commitment to a "one China" policy. It has allowed democracy to flourish in Taiwan and provides a framework in which all three relationships can prosper—between the United States and the PRC, the United States and Taiwan, and Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

I told President Jiang that we hope the People's Republic of China and Taiwan would resume a constructive cross-strait dialog and expand cross-strait exchanges. Ultimately, the relationship between the PRC and Taiwan is for

the Chinese themselves to determine—peacefully.

President Jiang and I agreed that the United States and China share a strong interest in stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and other sophisticated weaponry in unstable regions and rogue states, notably Iran. I welcome the steps China has taken and the clear assurances it has given today to help prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and related technology.

On the basis of these steps and assurances, I agreed to move ahead with the U.S.-China agreement for cooperation concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It will allow our companies to apply for licenses to sell equipment to Chinese nuclear powerplants, subject to U.S. monitoring. This agreement is a win-win-win. It serves America's national security, environmental, and economic interests.

President Jiang and I agreed to increase the cooperation between our countries in fighting international organized crime, drug trafficking, and alien smuggling. Our law enforcement officials will share information and consult regularly. And starting next year, we will station Drug Enforcement Administration officers in Beijing.

I'm also pleased that we will expand our cooperation on rule-of-law programs. Through them, we'll help China to train judges and lawyers, increase our exchanges of legal experts and materials, strengthen commercial law and arbitration in China, and share ideas on issues such as legal aid and administrative reform.

In both China and the United States, trade has been a critical catalyst for growth. China's the fastest growing market in the world for our goods and services. Tomorrow, Boeing will sign a contract for the largest sale of airplanes to China in history, 50 jets valued at \$3 billion. This contract will support tens of thousands of American jobs and provide China with a modern fleet of passenger planes.